

## **Ocean Action Panel 2**

### **Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health**

Good afternoon and welcome to all participants.

Estonia is a country inextricably linked to the sea. Our history, culture, and economy are woven into the fabric of the Baltic Sea coastlines. Our coast is home to vibrant communities whose daily lives are deeply intertwined with the sea. Therefore, it is vitally important for us that the marine environment remains healthy and provides sustainable livelihoods for future generations. Therefore, the development of marine science is not merely an academic interest for us, but a strategic necessity.

Estonian marine scientists have also been at the forefront of implementing new technologies and methods. Autonomous vessels, remote sensing techniques, and data analysis are just a few examples of how innovation helps us better understand and monitor the sea. Our scientists actively contribute to international projects and cooperation networks, ensuring that Estonian marine science remains competitive and relevant on the global stage. This international collaboration is invaluable for both sharing knowledge and finding solutions to cross-border marine issues.

We are committed to prioritizing scientific, technological, and economic development with the goal of advancing Estonian marine research and supporting the businesses that apply these findings. In doing so, we leverage our nation's strong digital capabilities. Estonia emphasizes improved data collection and utilization across all sectors, and we are proud to showcase our environmentally friendly IT solutions. Data plays a crucial role not only in monitoring the health of our oceans but also in fostering the growth of the blue bioeconomy.

I would like to thank all the organisers and participants today for contributing to the better future. I wish you all the best and success in today's discussions!

Thank you!